

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

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R 200815Z JUL 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3442

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2176

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN MARCH ON CAIRO

1. CAIRO PRESS ON JULY 19 CONTINUED TO GIVE FULL FACTUAL
COVERAGE, WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT, TO THE LIBYAN MARCH
ON EGYPT. WE HAVE IMPRESSION GOE IS NOT TOO CONCERNED.
SECURITY AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY BELIEVE THEY CAN CONTAIN
BULK OF MARCHERS AT MERSA MATROUH WITHOUT USING EXECSSIVE
FORCE. AS FACE-SAVING DEVICE FOR LIBYANS, THEY HAVE OFFERED
TO LET 100 MARCHERS COME TO CAIRO TO PRESENT DOCUMENT
"WRITTEN IN BLOOD" TO PRESIDENT SADAT.

2. TO COUNTER LIBYAN ATTEMPTS TO PICTURE EGYPT AS
VILLAIN BLOCKING ARAB UNITY, GOE ON JULY 19 RELEASED DETAILS
OF THREE UNITY PROPOSALS WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO
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QADHAAFI DURING HIS VISIT TO CAIRO. (FULL TEXT WILL

BE POUCHED.) IN ESSENCE, FIRST PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR COMPLETE UNITY ON A STEP-BY-STEP BASIS WITH IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES TO BE FORMALLY RESOLVED IN AN IDEOLOGICAL PAPER TO BE APPROVED BY THE ASU NATIONAL CONGRESS IN EGYPT AND THE RCC IN LIBYA. A HIGHER PLANNING COUNCIL WOULD WORK OUT A UNIFIED POLICY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN TRADE. THE UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND, CONSISTING OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS, WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS POWERS WHILE TAKING THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO HOLD A NATIONAL REFERENDUM "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" ON A NEW CONSTITUTION. JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO PLAN MERGER ARRANGEMENTS IN VARIOUS FUNCTIONAL AREAS.

3. THE SECOND PROPOSAL PROVIDED FOR THE ADOPTION OF A FEDERAL SYSTEM WITH A VICE PRESIDENT SUPERVISING THE GOVERNMENT IN LIBYA AND A FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FORMED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TWO STATES. FEDERAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD PREVAIL FOR TWO YEARS OR MORE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A NEW CONSTITUTION.

4. THE THIRD PROPOSAL STIPULATED THAT THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE AGREEMENT ON A UNIFIED ARAB FOREIGN POLICY AND A UNIFIED POLICY "FOR THE BATTLE." AFTER AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THESE CRUCIAL POLICY MATTERS, THERE WOULD BE A GRADUAL UNIFICATION OF THE POLITICAL AUTHORITY LEADING TO A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND A FEDERAL CABINET RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH MINISTRIES AS DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INFORMATION, ECONOMY, PLANNING, INTERIOR, AND JUSTICE. OTHER MINISTRIES SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, HOUSING, HEALTH, AND TRANSPORT WOULD BE DIVIDED WITH SEPARATE MINISTERS IN EGYPT AND LIBYA.

5. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THESE THREE PROPOSALS WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AT THE CABINET MEETINGS ATTENDED BY QADHAAFI. THE END RESULT WAS THE ADOPTION OF AN AMENDED FORM OF THE FIRST PROPOSAL. THE FIRST STEP WOULD BE A PUBLIC PLEBISCITE ON SEPTEMBER 1 ON A NEW CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION LEADING TO FULL UNITY. THE PRESENT UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND, COMPRISING SADAT AND QADHAAFI, WOULD

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CONTINUE TO FUNCTION UNTIL THE MERGER IS COMPLETED. AND IDEOLOGICAL DOCUMENT DEALING WITH BASIC POLICY QUESTIONS WOULD BE PREPARED AND RATIFIED BY THE ASU GENERAL CONGRESS IN EGYPT AND THE RCC IN LIBYA NO LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER 1973. A HIGHER COUNCIL FOR PLANNING WILL BE FORMED AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1973, WHICH WOULD DRAW UP A GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT AND FORMULATE A UNIFIED POLICY FOR FOREIGN TRADE. FOLLOWING THE PLEBISCITE, THE NECESSARY STUDIES

WOULD BE CONDUCTED FOR THE UNIFICATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL BUDGET, CUSTOMS REGULATIONS, CURRENCY, DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS, MINISTRIES, THE ASU AND THE MANPOWER POLICIES. THE DRAFT LAWS BASED ON THESE STUDIES WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE UNIFIED POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FOR PROMULGATION.

6. THE NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT "FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE COMPROMISE DRAFT PROJECT, EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE AND THEN COLONEL QADHAAFI RETURNED TO LIBYA AND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS ON THE ISSUES ON WHICH COMPLETE ACCORD WAS NOT ATTAINED."

7. COMMENT: THESE PRESS DISCLOSURES CLARIFY THE ISSUES BETWEEN QADHAAFI AND THE EGYPTIAN REGIME. HAVING BEEN BURNED ONCE BY THE COLLAPSE OF AN INADEQUATELY PREPARED MERGER WITH SYRIA, THE EGYPTIANS ARE DETERMINED THAT THE MERGER WITH LIBYA BE CARRIED OUT ON A CAREFULLY PLANNED, STEP-BY-STEP BASIS. THEY ALSO SEEM DETERMINED THAT THEIR BASIC IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITH QADHAAFI BE FORMALLY RESOLVED IN WRITING BEFORE THEY UNDERTAKE A REAL MERGER BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. ALTHOUGH QADHAAFI IS IMPATIENT WITH THE PACE OF PROGRESS TOWARDS A MERGER, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO STAMPEDE THE EGYPTIANS INTO ACCEPTING HIS SIMPLISTIC FORMULAS. IRONICALLY, HOWEVER, SADAT STILL SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT QADHAAFI'S PRESENCE AT THE HEAD OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IS A SINE QUO NON FOR A MERGER BETWEEN THE TWO STATES. HE MAY BE RIGHT. WITHOUT QADHAAFI'S DRIVE, DETERMINATION, IDEALISM AND PERSONAL APPEAL, IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO BRING THE LIBYAN PEOPLE INTO A REAL MERGER WITH THEIR BRETHREN TO THE EAST.

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